

The Breeze

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Vol. 92, No. 34
Thursday, February 6, 2014

Drugs seized Saturday

Five charged in weekend drug bust; four individuals listed as JMU students



JAMES CHUNG / THE BREEZE

Police seized drug paraphernalia at a South View apartment on Saturday.

By IJ CHAN
The Breeze

Five men are being charged in connection with a drug raid that occurred over the weekend. Four of the five men are JMU students.

According to police records, at approximately 4:32 a.m. on Saturday an officer from the Harrisonburg Police Department was patrolling the area near the 1000 block of Lois Lane in the South View Apartments complex.

The officer witnessed several people jumping on a car and went to investigate. When the officer approached the individuals, they ran into an apartment. The officer followed and was allowed into the apartment by one of the residents, Dylan Morra, 19, of Harrisonburg.

Upon entering the apartment, the officer saw drug paraphernalia in plain view, including a clear glass smoking device and a jar containing a leafy green substance he believed to be marijuana.

After further investigation, police found other paraphernalia, including multiple glass smoking devices, herb grinders, digital scales, wax paper containing homemade chocolate, money stored in a safe and butane fuel. There were also other items in the apartment that had marijuana residue on them.

Police charged Morra, along with Maxwell Cotton, Evan James Delany, Anthony Tanner and Eric Zirnheld in connection to the incident.

All of the individuals except Zirnheld are listed as students in the JMU

see DRUGS, page A4



LAUREN GORDON / THE BREEZE

Head coach Everett Withers speaks with the media about his first recruiting class as JMU's head football coach.

Window to the future

Coach Everett Withers introduces 14 new additions to JMU football program on National Signing Day

By WAYNE EPPS JR.
The Breeze

With National Signing Day comes head coach Everett Withers' first concrete mark on the JMU football program. The Dukes announced their 14 signees for this year's recruiting class yesterday.

A highlight of the class is Georgia Tech transfer, redshirt junior quarterback Vad Lee. Also added to the quarterback mix is freshman Rob Nittolo from Hillsborough High School in New Jersey, who enrolled at JMU this semester to participate in spring drills.

Overall, the majority of the class (eight) is slated for the defensive side of the ball. There are three linebackers, two defensive backs, one defensive tackle, one defensive end and one defensive end/linebacker hybrid.

But according to Withers, the positions aren't as important as the overall quality of the players.

"What we thought more than anything else was to find the best athlete and the best football player. We have an objective in finding young men," he said. "Obviously, toughness is important, whether he's an offensive guy or a defensive guy. He's got to have football instincts."

Six of the recruits are from Virginia. There are two from the central Virginia area, two from the Northern Virginia area and one from the Virginia Beach region. As a new staff, establishing contacts in-state is going to be an ongoing process.

"We want to continue to grow the relationship in the state with this staff and the coaches ... We try to have somewhere around

50 percent of our class from in-state," Withers said. "And that'll vary from year-to-year depending on the talent level in this state. We're not going to take a bad player in the state just to fill a quota."

The rest of the class includes three players from North Carolina, three from South Carolina, and one each from Florida and New Jersey. Withers has connections to the Carolinas going back to his four years at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill from 2008-11. One of those connections helped bring Lee on board.

"We'll try to get the best players up and down the Eastern seaboard," Withers said. "Obviously there are some ties to the state of North Carolina — my ties to the state of North Carolina and some other coaches on our staff. But yeah, we want to make sure we do a good job in Virginia first."

After getting a late start in early January, this year's recruiting period was obviously very condensed compared to the typical situation. There wasn't a whole lot of time to really get to know each player. But Withers and his staff made up for that by seeking out the people in each player's life that have the biggest insight into who they are.

Withers and staff also had names in mind ahead of time and took advantage of those prior connections.

"I think the biggest thing is our coaches did an unbelievable job of digging and finding what we call the 'champion,'" Withers said. "The 'champion' is that person in that kid's life that is going to help him make that decision."

see FOOTBALL, page B5

Changes to course reviews

Professor evaluations will soon be replaced by online format

By MADI PRICE
contributing writer

At the end of classes, students are required to fill out course evaluations for their professors and classes; however, JMU has recently introduced the idea of online evaluations as a way to improve the system.

Last semester, some professors had volunteered to test out a new software called "Blue" which allows them to have students evaluate them and their class online.

The course evaluation committee that made the decision to put their evaluations online was composed of volunteers from the departments of biology, history, philosophy and religion, writing rhetorical and technical communication and the College of Education.

From there, professors could go online and see the anonymous results of their evaluations. Eventually, the online evaluations will be able to be filled out through MyMadison, so students can fill out all their evaluations in the same place.

"The new software is really cool because it allows instructors to add their own specific questions to the course evaluation, as well as the standard questions," said Carol Hurney, one of the faculty members involved with the new program.

Hurney is the executive director for the Center for Faculty Innovation and an associate professor of biology.

Switching to online evaluations allows for easier recordkeeping of students' results and would also prevent professors from having to give out the evaluations during class. Students who had classes participating in the online course evaluation received emails to a link that led to the online course evaluation website.

Hurney notes that the CFI is slowly adding this software, and for good reason. "We want to make sure we do this right and work out all the problems before we send it out to all the classrooms," Hurney said.

While the CFI is pushing for online evaluations, some critics feel that moving course evaluations online would cause student response rates to drop from the near perfect rates in-class surveys yield.

"I wouldn't go online to fill out course evaluations because it would be way easier to just do them in class," freshman health sciences major Samantha Campbell said.

Campbell thinks that students will not want to take time out of their busy workdays to fill out course evaluations, especially during finals week.

Contrary to that belief, Hurney stated that this past semester she received a 93 percent response rate from her online course evaluations.

Freshman marketing major Hayley Sunderman believes that completing them online would allow for more in-class time during finals week for reviewing.

"I think that fewer students would probably fill out the surveys, but if they were made mandatory to pass the class

see EVAL, page A4

Getting out of the game

Professor overcomes dark past, authors a book to inspire others to do the same

By MEGAN O'BRIEN
contributing writer

Hospitality management professor James Williams has the practical manner of a motivational speaker. He foots all of his emails with the philosopher Sun Tzu's quote, "Know thyself, know thy enemy; a thousand battles, a thousand victories." But what sets the stocky, former football player apart from other JMU professors is that he used to be a thug.

His memoir, "From Thug to Scholar: An Odyssey to Unmask my True Potential," retraces the struggles he has overcome to get to where he is today. The book can be bought on Amazon and at the JMU Bookstore. His book is ranked on Amazon's best-seller list.

Anna Comer, a senior hospitality management major, said Williams will "tell you straight up that he has done some awful things in his life."

Chelsea Eisenburg, a senior hospitality management major, remembers the first day of class with "James;" all of his students

are on a first name basis with their professor. After the class bombarded him with anonymous questions about his life, her first thought was, "This man has nothing to hide."

But this wasn't always the case. "I don't even think I'm supposed to be here," Williams admits.

His story starts in Fall River, Mass., in an impoverished neighborhood where schooling was ignored and fighting was the real education.

The family of five lived in an apartment with "maybe two rooms" where the heat didn't always work and government-provided food was sometimes dinner.

His parents always taught their boys to follow God, to make good grades and wise decisions.

But he saw drug dealers, the guys who had all the girls and the fancy cars and thought, "What if I was that type of person, would people like me, too?" It was all about perception.

see THUG, page B2



HOLLY WARFIELD / THE BREEZE

James Williams' memoir was published on Oct. 31. Williams teaches hospitality management at JMU and in 2012 he received a Teaching Excellence Award.

2/6 INSIDE

A3 NEWS
Finding their niche
Lack of diversity said to hurt students' learning experience.

A5 OPINION
Shameful selfies?
A new poster on campus is shaming students for taking pictures of themselves.

B1 LIFE
Mash-eat-a
Mashita, a Korean food truck, brings new tastes to Harrisonburg palates.

B3 SPORTS
Right back at it
JMU softball begins the season with five weekend games.



EDITORS Drew Crane & Kortney Frederick EMAIL breezecopy@gmail.com

Thursday, February 6, 2014 **A2**

The Breeze

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MISSION

The Breeze, the student-run newspaper of James Madison University, serves student, faculty and staff readership by reporting news involving the campus and local community. The Breeze strives to be impartial and fair in its reporting and firmly believes in First Amendment rights.

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The Buzz

Discuss this week's burning topics with us! Send us your responses @TheBreezeJMU or on our Facebook.

Virginia state law prevents those in same-sex domestic partnerships to have the same benefits as heterosexual couples. JMU's Faculty Senate unanimously voted to extend work benefits to all employees in same-sex domestic partnerships. What are your thoughts?

Proud of my Faculty Senate and great to see my research partner and friend Rob featured. He works tirelessly for LGBTQ advocacy.

Lori Leonard Britt | via Facebook

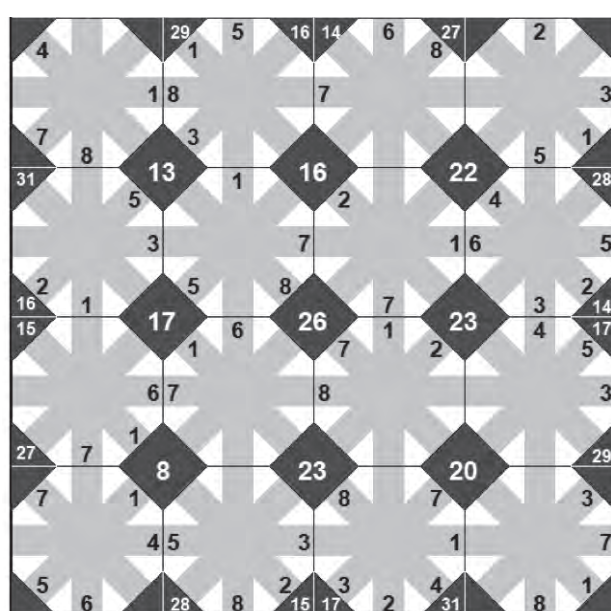
This speaks volumes about JMU's integrity; good job!

Jill Howard Church | via Facebook

In addition to my upbringing, JMU is where I learned love and acceptance of all. Good job, JMU! Proud to be a duke!!

Jill Glover Adams | via Facebook

The OCTO puzzle

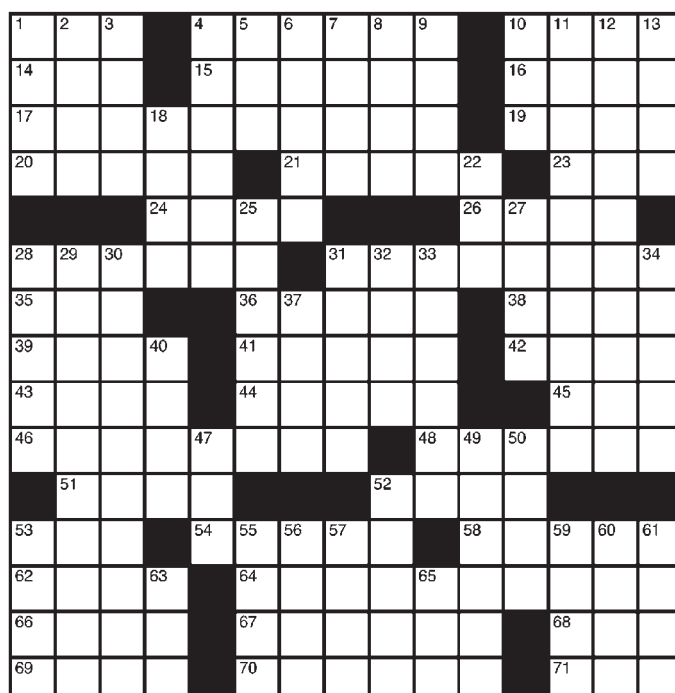


Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- 1 Fly-by-nighter?
- 4 Hartford market checker's action?
- 10 To be, to Brutus
- 14 Pod resident
- 15 La Quinta rival
- 16 Mocked, in a way
- 17 Boise jewelry?
- 19 Radius neighbor
- 20 Huffington Post piece
- 21 Catches on, with "up"
- 23 Helen Reddy's "___ Woman"
- 24 Signs of approval
- 26 Seek, as a fugitive
- 28 Like Mont Blanc
- 31 Harrisburg loudspeaker network?
- 35 China's Chou En-___
- 36 "My Fair Lady" composer
- 38 Piddling
- 39 Best of Hollywood
- 41 Jackson hair styles?
- 42 Pull an all-nighter, perhaps
- 43 "The Ides of March" actor
- 44 Grind to ___
- 45 Environmental prefix
- 46 Tulsa bull pen?
- 48 Lyric poems
- 51 New Rochelle campus
- 52 Agenda unit
- 53 Every little bit
- 54 Like Richard Burton, by birth
- 58 First name on a 1945 bomber
- 62 Commotion
- 64 Richmond medical center?
- 66 Start from scratch
- 67 Pass by
- 68 Spleen
- 69 Evangelist
- 70 Baton Rouge equipment?
- 71 Doo-wop horn



By C.C. Burnikel

DOWN

- 1 Mayberry kid
- 2 Unites
- 3 Physical exam tests
- 4 Coloring stick
- 5 "Tic ___ Dough": old TV game show
- 6 Small diving ducks
- 7 City SW of Bogot
- 8 Lemony drinks
- 9 Cager Archibald
- 10 Evian water
- 11 Broke into small, sharp pieces
- 12 Contest for a sea
- 13 Cheese in a red coat
- 18 Delhi royal
- 22 Hardly outgoing
- 25 Beach town NW of San Diego
- 27 "Semper Fi" org.
- 28 Last Olds model
- 29 Playboy
- 30 Rum-and-coconut drink
- 31 Organ part
- 32 Illegally off base, briefly
- 33 Six-line sonnet section

Monday's puzzle solved

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| I | S | P | S | | S | N | O | W | | S | U | M | A | C |
| S | H | A | Q | | K | A | N | E | | P | R | A | D | A |
| S | E | C | U | R | I | T | Y | B | L | A | N | K | E | T |
| O | S | T | E | O | | O | X | B | O | W | | E | N | S |
| | | | A | B | T | | | | O | N | U | S | | |
| P | I | L | L | O | W | T | A | L | K | | S | W | A | M |
| S | C | I | T | I | E | T | O | | F | O | A | L | S | |
| Y | A | K | | I | N | E | R | R | O | R | | V | I | N |
| C | R | E | S | C | | T | E | R | R | A | | E | B | B |
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| M | I | D | D | L | E | A | G | E | S | P | R | E | A | D |
| O | N | E | N | D | | S | U | R | E | | U | R | S | A |
| S | O | D | A | S | | P | E | O | N | | E | M | T | S |

- 34 Bulletin board postings
- 37 Workplace protection agcy.
- 40 Like most Internet trolls: Abbr.
- 47 Unpolished
- 49 Eye
- 50 Upscale hotel chain
- 52 "Fingers crossed"
- 53 Curly hairdo

- 55 Stunt legend
- 56 Singer's syllables
- 57 Chase, as flies
- 59 Elevator man
- 60 "60 Minutes" correspondent
- 61 "Jeopardy!" fixture, to contestants
- 63 Capitol Hill fig.
- 65 Fed. benefits agency

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IN BRIEF

HARRISONBURG

Local men charged for hate crime dismissed

A Rockingham County judge on Tuesday dismissed the case of two white men accused of attacking a black man because of his race, according to the *Daily News-Record*.

The men: Christian Dane Reinertson, 20, of Harrisonburg, and Jacob Devoshen Faircloth, 23, of Wise, Va. had their case heard by Rockingham County District Court Judge Marvin Hillsman.

Both men were charged with felony assault and battery as a hate crime.

The case was dismissed due to the credibility issues of the complainant. According to Hillsman, in addition to credibility issues the case didn't meet the criteria for conviction under Virginia law. The judge said the law states that the defendant must intentionally select a victim due to his or her race, and that there is no evidence that Reinertson and Faircloth did so.

While the charges were dismissed the case may not be over as prosecutors are considering indictments against the pair by a Rockingham County grand jury in the future.

NORFOLK

Gay marriage battle enters Norfolk court

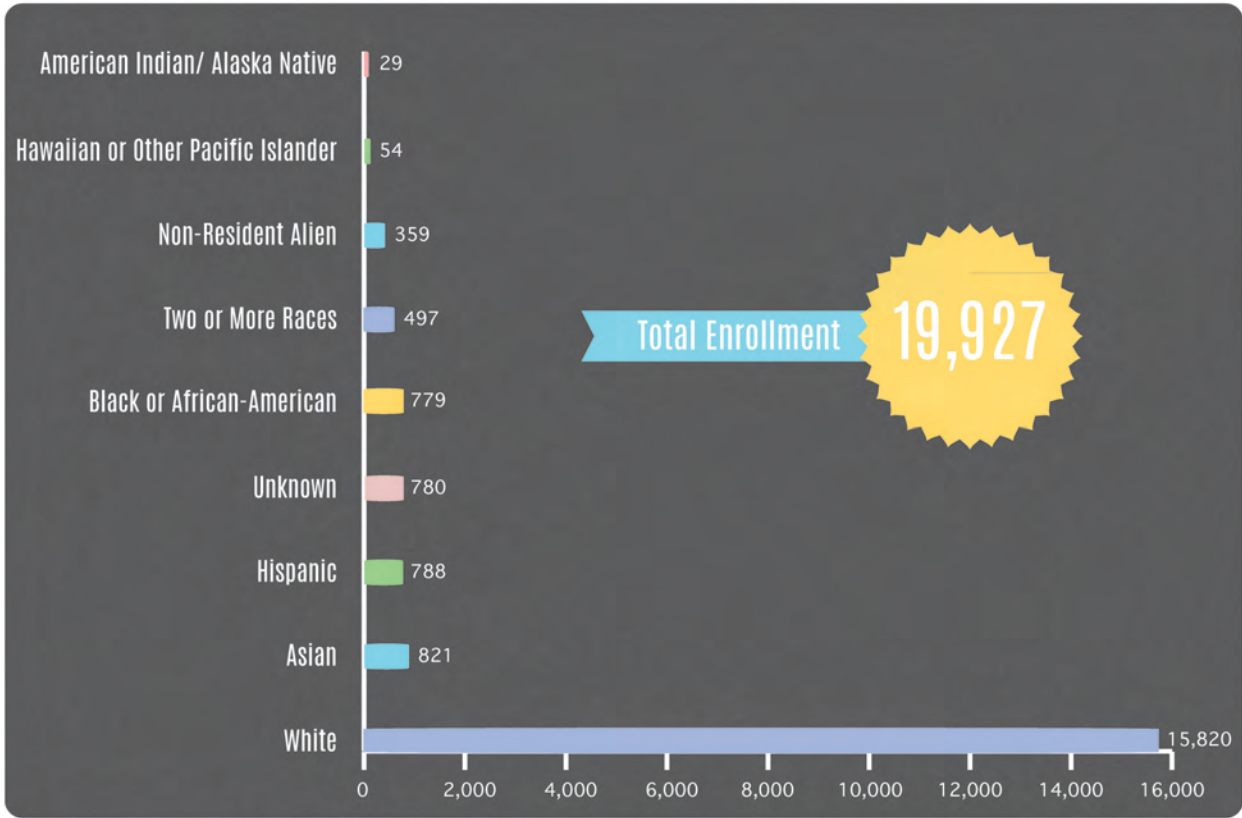
The fight for Virginia gay marriage came to Norfolk on Tuesday, as opponents of a Virginia law that bans same-sex marriages told a federal judge the law was just like the Jim Crow-era prohibition against interracial marriage according to the *Daily News-Record*.

Supporters of the law have maintained that there is no fundamental right to gay marriage and the ban exists as part of the state's interest in responsible procreation.

The case is being watched very closely because it could give gay marriage its first foothold in the South, and because legal experts believe the topic is on the fast track to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Purple, gold and white?

Minorities underrepresented at JMU, some students feel left out



BLAIR ROSEN / THE BREEZE

As of fall 2012, minorities only accounted for about 20 percent of JMU's student body, according to the Office of Institutional Research.

By **RAVEN BEATY**
contributing writer

An hour spent at any crowded location on campus whether it's Carrier Library or PC Dukes gives an accurate portrayal of JMU's homogeneous population. For every hundred students, 19 are from a non-Caucasian background.

The lack of diversity on campus is not unknown, but it is a topic that many choose not to address.

According to JMU's Office of Institutional Research, statistics show that minorities account for approximately 19 percent of a student body that is nearly 20,000. In comparison to the statistics given by the U.S. Census Bureau, the total U.S. population is over 313.9 million with minorities making up approximately 37 percent.

"I knew JMU was majority white," said senior communication studies major Joe Hwang. Three years ago when he was a

freshman, Hwang found it difficult to meet new people and chose to join the Agape Christian Fellowship.

Most of ACF's members were of Asian decent, giving Hwang the opportunity to meet people who share a similar cultural background with him.

"It's not that I'm a thug or or I'm some mob member. I look presentable."

Earl Johnson
sophomore business management major

Hwang said that JMU's overwhelming whiteness, "gave me an opportunity [to] just accept the fact that it is different and just kind of use that to get to know more about people,

different cultures or just other people."

Hwang does recall an incident that occurred on a Friday night, when a drunk male walking past UREC saw Hwang and began to mock him by mimicking an Asian language.

Hwang ignored him and since then has chosen to continue keeping an open mind about his time here at JMU.

Earl Johnson, a sophomore business management major, describes his experience while attending his math class in which he is the only African-American.

Johnson notices that if he is sitting in a row by himself at the start of class, his row is usually the last one to fill up.

"It's not that I'm a thug or I'm some mob member. I look presentable," Johnson said. "I'm sitting here in a collared shirt and some jeans."

He does not necessarily believe it has to

see **DIVERSITY**, page A4

A multi-lingual experience

Spanish professor will spend next semester abroad teaching and brushing up on her Italian

By **EMILY CATHERINE WOOD**
The Breeze

Every Thursday, *The Breeze* will be running a Q&A with one of JMU's professors. This week we're featuring Spanish professor Elizabeth Castro. Castro has been teaching at JMU since 2004 and is currently learning to speak Italian fluently.

What is the best part about working at JMU?

I guess I would have to say that – since I was a high school teacher first for 15 years before I came to JMU – it would be that I can dedicate more time to the students and having good lessons. I guess it would be that I just have more free time to actually teach whereas in high school you're kind of tied up with other things, so I like that JMU is more a teaching school ... I enjoy the fact that I can actually teach and have the time to plan lessons that are interesting.

What made you choose JMU?

Actually, JMU chose me, I guess you could say. I applied to various schools, and JMU offered a job. I had been back in the states for five years after getting my Master's in Spanish in Spain and was looking for a job. Other jobs came along, but it wasn't the right time for me – I was married at the time ... When JMU offered the job, of course I loved the area. I wanted to stay in Virginia or on the East Coast ... When they offered me the job during a phone interview ... I said, "How long do you think it [will be] before I know something?" and they said, "Well, we're calling because this is the final step; would you like the job?" and I said, "Of course I want the job. Who wouldn't want the job?" So that's a big kind of joke between myself and the college now.

Do you miss anything about teaching high school Spanish?

Not at all, I liked it because it was their first attempt at Spanish ... When I came back with my master's I taught upper levels, but I really enjoyed teaching when I taught Spanish 1 or 2 to see those kids who really got hooked into it even though I taught completely in Spanish, even in high school Spanish 1. I believe in complete immersion ... What I do now is mostly review ... The kids already have everything and I don't feel like I'm really teaching them anything new, but I feel like I'm taking all that they've had by different people and just getting them prepared.



MATT SCHMACHTENBERG / THE BREEZE

Spanish professor Elizabeth Castro will be traveling to Italy next semester where she will teach a course on Italian culture.

Where did you study in Spain, and what did you do there?

When I applied for my master's; I had taught high school for 10 years ... If you're a dedicated high school teacher, it takes a lot out of you – you really give a lot of your time, your evenings, you call parents, you go to events, as many sporting events as you can, Spanish club, whatever ... I had taught part-time classes at Christopher Newport University, and I decided this is what I want to do full time, and I needed a master's ... I was actually in Alcalá de Henares – it's right outside of Madrid. It's where Cervantes was born – the author of "Don Quixote"

... The program was through a university in Ohio called Bowling Green State University ... so unfortunately I had to spend a second year in Ohio, which was cold and flat. But in the end, I ended up with a master's. It was a two-year program. The first year was just intensive, living [in Spain] for the whole academic year ... I did not want to live with a host family – I was older. I didn't go right out of grad school; I had already worked for 10 years, so I lived on the university campus ... I lived in a duplex and I lived with Spaniards – the majority were Spaniards, but there were two girls that were from Denmark. Of course the only language we could speak in the home was Spanish; I was totally immersed. It was great.

What are your plans for when you spend next semester in Italy?

I'll be in charge of the students ... when we travel. I have to take them to Rome and Venice, and there's one other city. Then I'll teach this course, in English, because it will be a course related to Italian culture, because of course, I can't teach Spanish there, and I'm not qualified to teach Italian. In my free time, I will visit my friends ... I want to be able to come back speaking [Italian] fluently, and then take the time to see my friends in other countries because they'll be so close ... I've done everything from Rome north, but I need to see the south ... There's so many things I want to do.

If you hadn't become a teacher, what do you think you would be doing now?

I started in banking, and they wanted to put me through managerial school ... To be honest, I went into education because of the money, because I wasn't going to make as much working at a bank. My mother was an educator ... Everyone I knew in education was like, "Don't go into education; you're not going to make any money." But it's in our blood. My great uncle – he's 87 years old and still teaches ... It runs in the family, and so I said, "You know what? I'll just try it." It turned out I was good at it. So if I couldn't teach, I would probably be doing something like working with travel, because that has turned out to be my passion. Maybe working in a travel agency or maybe a tour guide leader ... One of those companies that leads tours teaching people about the culture and history in Spain or Italy.

CONTACT Emily Catherine Wood at wood3ec@dukes.jmu.edu.

GOP says Obamacare will eliminate jobs

Analysis suggests 2.5 million jobs will be lost over next 10 years



COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

President Barack Obama speaks at an “Obamacare Summit” in Washington, D.C., on Nov. 4.

By **KEVIN G. HALL, LESLEY CLARK AND TONY PUGH**
McClatchy Washington Bureau

A government analysis sparked fierce debate Tuesday, projecting that the Affordable Care Act will lead American workers to voluntarily put in fewer hours on the job, a total that would add up to the equivalent of as many as 2.5 million jobs over the next decade.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office said it expected total employment and compensation in the whole economy to increase over the next 10 years. But “that increase will be smaller than it would have been in the absence of the ACA,” it said in a report.

The lower work total will come from people who choose not to be employed or to reduce their hours in order to maximize government-provided benefits under the new law. Such a decline is a common phenomenon in social welfare programs, according to the agency.

The projected reduction in hours over 10 years could translate into the equivalent of 2 million fewer full-time jobs in 2017 than otherwise expected and 2.5 million fewer full-time jobs by 2024, the CBO said. While there’s no way to be certain in advance how many people would leave the workforce altogether and how many would simply reduce their hours, the estimates reflect new thinking on how the Affordable Care Act might ripple through labor markets.

The report set off a pitched debate, with Republicans simplifying the analysis to claim that it would eliminate jobs, and Democrats saying it was good that workers would have the flexibility to choose to work less.

“The middle class is getting squeezed in this economy, and this CBO report confirms that Obamacare is making it worse,” said House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio.

“CBO just reported that #ObamaCare will push 2.5 million Americans out of the workforce,” said a tweet from the National Republican Congressional Committee, the campaign operation for Republicans in the House of Representatives.

“It’s not that the businesses are cutting those jobs,” countered Jason Furman, the chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisers. The potential decision by workers to reduce their hours is an “option that they didn’t use to have,” he added.

One independent analysis Tuesday said the Republicans overstated the case in claiming that the report said the health care law would eliminate jobs. “CBO did not say Obamacare will kill 2 million jobs,” said The Fact Checker column in *The Washington Post*.

Yet the column also concluded that “the decline in the workforce participation rate has been of concern to economists, as the baby boom generation leaves the workforce, and the health care law appears to exacerbate that trend.”

The CBO said that over 10 years the health care law was

likely to reduce compensation nationally by 1 percentage point. That’s a “proportionally smaller” effect than the fall in hours worked.

The impact on hours worked is likely to come further out in the decade, and in the near term the health care revamp will be a “boost to demand for goods and services,” CBO Director Douglas Elmendorf said.

That translates into more jobs, though neither he nor the White House could say how many.

The subsidies for health insurance “will both stimulate demand for health care services and allow low-income households to redirect some of the funds that they would have spent on that care toward the purchase of other goods and services — thereby increasing overall demand,” the CBO report said. “That increase in overall demand while the economy remains somewhat weak will induce some employers to hire more workers or increase the hours of current employees during that period.”

Poor and middle-income workers have a greater propensity to spend, with economic research showing that these groups save very little.

The estimated effects of the Affordable Care Act on employment are an update on a 2011 report in which the CBO calculated that workers would put in reduced hours that added up to the equivalent of 800,000 jobs. The changes reflect more information obtained as the law is being implemented.

DRUGS | Residents may have intended to make weed-laced edibles

from front

student directory.

Special Agent Mark Campbell of the Virginia State Police supervises the RUSH Drug Task Force, which seeks to investigate and disrupt the drug trafficking situation in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County. Campbell said the honey butane or hash oil solution that was found during Saturday’s raid may have been produced with the intent to make marijuana-laced chocolates.

Oil, Campbell said, is made

in conversion labs crafted from PVC pipes or metal tubes. He added that the labs often resemble pipe bombs and are extremely explosive and contain flammable and harmful chemicals.

Individuals use these labs to extract tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the prominent psychoactive component in marijuana. The chemical reaction process causes the THC to be intensified. Campbell said this process is similar to the way methamphetamines are converted into ice, which is its purest form.

He added that hash oil is a new trend in the East Coast. Drug trends, he said, often make their way from the West Coast over to East Coast communities like Harrisonburg.

“Someone’s always coming up with something,” Campbell said.

Police also seized a pair of Nike shoes, a MacBook Pro, an iPhone, a LG phone, two keys to an Audi car, an herb grinder with residue, a Playstation 3, a 32-inch TV and butane fuel.

CONTACT IJ Chan at breezenews@gmail.com.

EVAL | Switching to online system could save paper and time in class

from front

then students would be more compelled to take them,” Sunderman said.

Communication studies professor Elizabeth Armstrong believes that switching to online course evaluations would be much more practical for both students and professors.

Armstrong thinks that many students believe that filling out the course evaluations online would make them less anonymous, and therefore they would be more hesitant to respond. However, Armstrong disagrees with this preconceived notion. “I think it makes it more anonymous to do them online

because oftentimes we can recognize handwriting,” she said.

According to Hurney, “There was to be a level of trust that the students have with us. We value their feedback and the anonymousness [sic] that this process provides.”

Armstrong also believes that the process of filling out the papers during class takes up a lot of time.

“We’re required to leave the room and have another professor come in to administer it. The whole process can take up to 20 minutes,” Armstrong said. She also believes that it will save a lot of paper from being wasted.

Hurney agrees with this in recognizing the fact that teachers have to take the time to sort through all the online scantrons and run them through the machines.

While improvements continue to be made to the new course evaluations system, students should be on the lookout for a new and improved way of giving their professors’ feedback.

“Administratively, it makes more sense to do it online because it will be easier for all of the evaluations to be sorted through,” Armstrong said.

CONTACT Madi Price at price2mm@dukes.jmu.edu

DIVERSITY | Minority students find niche despite lack of diversity

from page A3

do with others being racist, but with people not understanding how to approach situations involving those of different ethnicities. Johnson is aware that many students come from areas with predominantly white demographics.

“I will say there is a divide, but I don’t see the racial aspect or the hate that I’ve seen at other institutions and locations,” he said.

Senior biotechnology major Sagar Mehra has never felt out of place within the JMU community.

“Even though statistically JMU is not that diverse, there is plenty of options,” Mehra said.

One option for Mehra was the Bhangra dance club. Mehra joined Bhangra his freshman year, and he found his niche playing the dhol, a special type of drum with two heads. In addition to playing the dhol, Bhangra has given Mehra the opportunity to meet others who share the same Indian background.

Mehra explained that even though the white majority is apparent, he doesn’t notice it.

The majority must have been noticeable to junior computer information systems major Michael Davis’ friend, who suggested that affirmative action was behind Davis’ acceptance, after said friend was not offered admission to JMU.

Davis said that in fact it was because “my grades were just that much better than his.”

Davis is now the president of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. The fraternity has helped him meet other multicultural organizations through events.

“That’s what [immersed] me into the community,” he said.

Toneshia Watkins, a senior media arts and design major, said that the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. has given her the same sense of belonging to the JMU community. Although she feels attached now, Watkins has also felt the divide and seclusion on campus in the past.

During her freshman year for example, her social circle was made up of mostly Caucasians. However, throughout her time at JMU she has developed the belief that a person’s individual choices and their personality play a big role in finding their place within the community.

“If you are really trying to find out the real reason you probably should kind of take a look at yourself,” Watkins said. “Like, ‘OK am I intentionally secluding myself because I feel like they won’t accept me, or is it something that is actually happening?’”

Even though the lack of diversity on campus is hard to ignore, that does not stop many of JMU’s minority students from taking advantage of the opportunities that JMU has to offer.

CONTACT Raven Beaty at beatyrrp@dukes.jmu.edu.





KAT MCDEARIS / THE BREEZE

DAME THEORY | guest columnists



Madison Unplugged, a student organization that promotes breaking away from the digital world, placed this poster in campus buildings last week.

Selfies and narcissism are not shameful

Organization's poster suggests that students should be ashamed of themselves and their bodies for posting pictures

A recent series of Madison Unplugged posters sparked some reactions when they appeared on campus last week. The most recent posters feature several selfies of thin, white women overlaid with the words “Me! Me! Me!” A single word dominated the rest of the poster: “Narcissism?”

As members of Dame Theory, JMU's only all-women talk show on WXJM, we had a variety of opinions toward these posters.

Madison Unplugged is trying to critique the use of social media among young people, and ultimately get them to challenge their attachments to technology.

However, the latest campaign focuses disproportionately on women, who make up 60 percent of JMU's student body, but made up 100 percent of the selfies depicted on the poster.

“Where are the photos of men post-workout, flexing their abs?” we wondered. Where are the status updates about life accomplishments? Rather than sparking a discussion on the myriad of ways we use social media to share, inform and yes,

self-indulge. Madison Unplugged seems to be making a simplistic and unfair judgement of the many young women who post pictures of themselves online.

To claim that self-validating behavior like posting selfies on Instagram is narcissistic is an oversimplification. We all naturally seek validation from many sources — parents, teachers, partners — both online and off. No one denies that self-confidence, self-appreciation and self-care are valuable tools for a healthy life. Rather than asking if seeking out validation is healthy, it would be more productive to ask how much validation is productive.

Is conflating use of social media with narcissism even a fair assumption to make? Use of social media does not mean that someone is unengaged with the world; websites like Facebook, Twitter and Tumblr are how young people often learn about breaking news, social and political issues. How our generation uses online and social media is a complex subject, but to dismiss it as entirely negative is to discount the Internet's potential to foster our personal and academic growth as

intelligent and thoughtful human beings.

Finally, is narcissism as destructive of a trait as Madison Unplugged makes it out to be? Sometimes a little narcissism is just what we need. We live in a society where advertisements, magazine covers and other mainstream media perpetuate unrealistic and unattainable beauty ideals for women. It also often dismisses women of color, women of all shapes and sizes, the disabled, the elderly, the nonbinary and so on. Sometimes it's nice to celebrate the diversity of our identities from the perspective of those living it.

Social media, and in particular, selfies, are a way for us to control how we are seen and by whom. People who wouldn't be considered conventionally beautiful or acceptable by mainstream media have the opportunity to present themselves to the world in a positive light and humanize themselves in their communities. A mirror picture can create more realistic representation from the hands of the subject themselves. It can mean the realization that you have a community of friends that enjoy receiving insight into your life. That someone

out there appreciates both your big accomplishments and your day-to-day activities. That you are not alone.

Our society teaches women to value their appearance, but simultaneously calls them vain for celebrating their own beauty. It values personal interaction but dismisses connections people can make through social media. Madison Unplugged is right that it's good to seek a balance between living in the “real world” and using technology, but people use online media for many different reasons. Conversations surrounding social media, selfie culture and technology require nuance and perspective, not judgment. Dame Theory exists to raise these conversations and to challenge convention in the JMU community. We respect Madison Unplugged for inspiring this dialogue, but we want to take it a step further. Until then, take a picture. It'll last longer.

Dame Theory is a WXJM talk show. Listen to them Mondays at 9 p.m. on 88.7 FM. Contact them at dametheory@gmail.com.

DARTS & PATS

Darts & Pats are anonymously submitted and printed on a space-available basis. Submissions creatively depict a given situation, person or event and do not necessarily reflect the truth.

A “can-you-not-see-that-people-are-behind-you?” dart to the girl who stalled traffic in the Warsaw Avenue Parking Deck because she wanted my spot even though I wasn't leaving.

From a student who wanted her car to get warmed up and text her worried mother before she backed out.

A “thank-you” pat to the honest person who found my car keys last week in front of Godwin Field, and hung them on the chain fence. I found them, and was so grateful and relieved.

From a very thankful staff member in Showker Hall.

An “om-nom-nom” pat to the chefs at D-Hall for their delicious tomato soup.

From a girl suffering from the flu who didn't even like tomato soup until she came to JMU.

A “happy-Valentine's-day” pat to the best professor in the kinesiology department, Nick Luden.

From a student who probably smiles too big when she sees you.

A “damn-you-and-your-green-eyes” dart to my professor.

From a second semester senior who almost went an entire JMU career without having a crush on her professor.

A “you-have-to-be-kidding-me” dart to the sorority girls on the bus asking if painting their bedroom counts for their community service hours because helping the homeless is gross and scary.

From a Duke who knows giving back to the community is important and thinks you should feel lucky that you even have a bedroom to sleep in.

A “this-isn't-supposed-to-be-Hoth” dart to my roommate for consistently turning off the heat at night.

From a “Star Wars” fan who loves it, but doesn't need to re-enact it.

A “must-we-add-‘basic-bus-etiquette’-as-a-GenEd-requirement?” dart to the students who fail to move to the back of the bus to accommodate people who are boarding.

From a rider who is constantly amazed at the selfish, oblivious or just plain clueless attitude of many people who ride the Harrisonburg Department of Public Transportation buses.

A “could-you-be-any-slower” dart to people who walk slowly and block hallways and stairwells.

From a Jersey girl who walks like she drives and needs you to get out of my way.

Editorial Policies

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The Breeze welcomes and encourages readers to voice their opinions through letters and guest columns. Letters must be no longer than 250 words. Guest columns must be no more than 650 words.

The Breeze reserves the right to edit submissions for length, grammar and if material is libelous, factually inaccurate or unclear. The Breeze assumes the rights to any published work. Opinions expressed in this page, with the exception of editorials, are not necessarily those of The Breeze or its staff.

Letters and guest columns should be submitted in print or via e-mail and must include name, phone number, major/year if author is a current student (or year of graduation), professional title (if applicable) and place of residence if author is not a JMU student.

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— JAMES MADISON, 1800

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KRISTEN BAKER | contributing columnist

We need more time before the class add/drop deadline

The short window of opportunity given by the Office of the Registrar can leave students with high costs

Upon returning to campus after every break, we are greeted by our familiar and beloved friend: syllabus week. It is known by universities throughout the country as being notoriously easy and short. In each class we learn each other's names, tell fun facts few will remember and read over every course's syllabus, which just lays out the same policies back to back to back.

As the second week of the semester approaches, we begin to get a feel for what each course is actually like; we've grasped the course's workload, professor's teaching methods and the combination of our courses together. Come Wednesday, you've attended only two class sessions that can actually be deemed genuine meetings.

At this point you might realize that one class isn't working out. Maybe you've bitten off more than you can chew for the semester or perhaps you signed up for a class that's unnecessary to your major requirements by mistake. So you drop it, right?

Wrong. While you can drop the course, there are consequences for making this informed decision — costly ones. This semester, the Office of the Registrar set the add/drop

deadline to Jan. 21, only to push it back one day in correspondence with the snow day — giving us a total of seven school days to make an important decision. In seven school days, the maximum amount of class time you could have had for a M/W/F class is under three hours — and this includes the name game, forced fun-fact sharing and syllabus debriefing. After the add/drop deadline, students who withdraw from a course, even one day after, receive a permanent "W" on their transcripts and no tuition reductions. For students who are residents of Virginia, the decision to drop a three credit course a mere 24 hours after the deadline will cost them \$1,230; for out-of-state students, it's \$3,285.

I understand why there are rules regarding students' withdrawal from classes. They exist to put precautions in place so students cannot abuse the power of getting out of class without repercussions. I don't believe the consequences for withdrawing from a class are too harsh, but that the add/drop deadline is too soon.

The deadline does not give students enough time to make a rational decision pertaining to their schedule, activities and learning style. By

the second day of the second week of classes, the only impression a student has of the class is based on that little piece of paper syllabus week was dedicated to. And while the course schedule may be covered in slight detail, outlining the assignments to come and the textbooks to be bought does not give a student an adequate sense of what those assignments pertain to or how time consuming they will be.

JMU should give its students the opportunity to fully understand what they are getting themselves into before cutting off their capability to make their course schedule meet their needs.

Don't get me wrong — as a junior I'm well aware that college courses involve hard work and commitment.

The closer you get to graduation, the more 300- and 400-level classes you have to pile onto your schedule. But just because your ambitions for the semester outweigh your abilities doesn't mean you should have to feel a sense of defeat and pay for it too ... literally.

JMU should give its students the opportunity to fully understand what they are getting themselves into before cutting off their capability to make their course schedule meet their needs. Two days after syllabus week is simply not enough time. By forcing us to make groundless decisions based upon our first impressions of a class, we feel discouraged to even attempt to take on a challenge because the consequences at hand are too costly — for our transcripts, our wallets and ultimately, our pride.

So next semester if you're unsure about the overall control you have concerning your courses, remember the advice that JMU offers: give up now before it's too late.

Kristen Baker is a junior media arts and design major. Contact Kristen at bakerkl@dukes.jmu.edu.

TARAN BLANTON-VANDERWEGE | contributing columnist

Justin Bieber and other child stars have 'fallen from grace'

A lack of values instilled by parents, unlimited money and freedom are the causes of stars' bad behavior

Whether you have "Bieber Fever" or not, you have probably seen Justin Bieber, the 19-year-old pop star, flood the news channels, gossip magazines and comedy television shows with his shocking behavior. After being arrested for drag racing through a residential neighborhood, a DUI and possession of marijuana and prescription drugs, Bieber has received more attention than ever before. Similarly, Miley Cyrus landed herself as the no. 1 "Thing We Wasted Our Year On in 2013" on Saturday Night Live's annual review of the past year.

What is it that makes these stars start off as such powerful role models and talented entertainers to, within a few years, become drug and alcohol abusers that are high-risk for rehab and jail time?

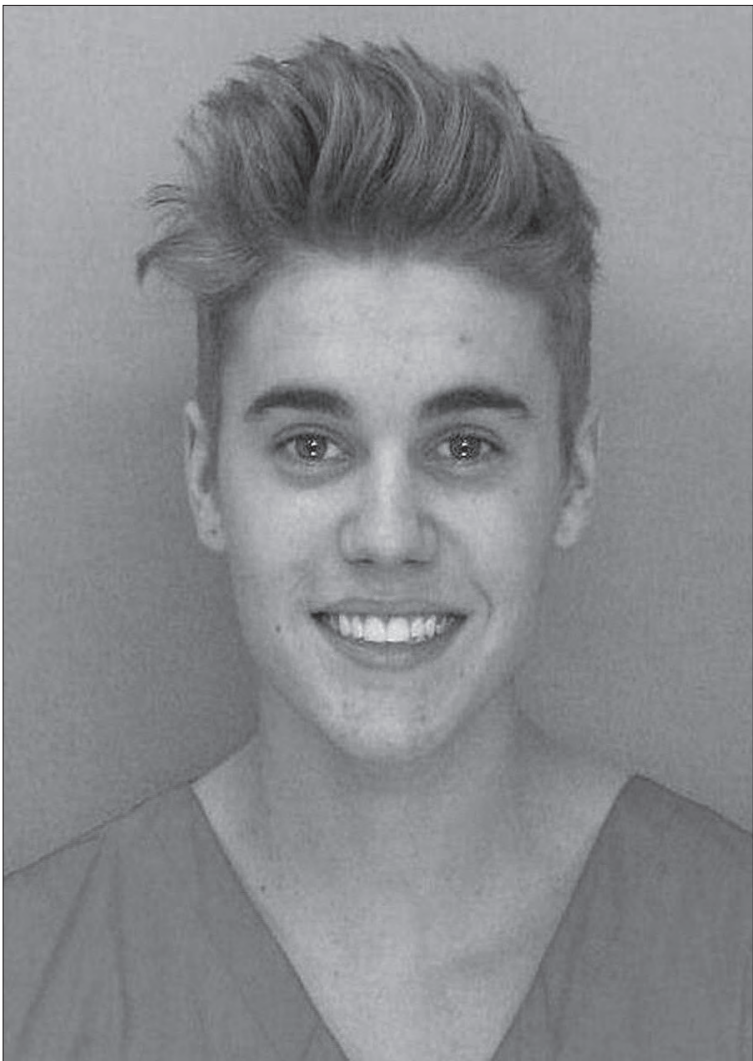
I spoke to a few students and faculty at JMU and asked what they thought about the situation. Students have come to the conclusion that it is just stupidity that has these stars running rampant. People like Justin Bieber, Miley Cyrus, Amanda Bynes, Britney Spears and countless others were just given too much money, freedom and too little responsibility at a young age and were never fully taught the values other parents instill in their children during this time.

Bad parenting and managing is what the faculty believes is a cause of Bieber's and others' actions. Having grown up around rock stars who exhibited similar behavior when they were our age, the faculty is not surprised by this behavior from wealthy entertainers, but more so of how their public relations representatives allow it to flood the news.

Can we assume that Justin Bieber's PR rep just can't handle the amount of recklessness or is there something else going on?

Forbes Magazine proposes a different perspective. They called Miley Cyrus "the public relations genius." The article explains that

Her attempts of expressing herself have changed significantly since her final days as Hannah Montana on Disney's hit television show.



COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

Justin Bieber was arrested on charges including driving under the influence in Miami.

she had two advantages in gaining major fame from the beginning: fame at an early age and a platform to "express herself."

Now, she is posing naked on magazine covers and in her music videos, "twerking" on the MTV Music Awards and lighting up

a joint during a performance in Switzerland.

The *New York Daily News* believes that she "might not have spun off the rails. She might know exactly what she is doing." *Forbes* and the *New York Daily News* may have a point here. This sensation of shocking the media may be the way young stars hold onto their fame.

Unlike the 1950s and 1960s, the era of the King of Rock and Roll, Elvis Presley, we have the Internet, which can make and break people within hours of news, photo or video postings. Bieber, himself, was found via YouTube and you see where he is today. Britney Spears' incident where she shaved her head hit the web merely hours after she picked up the razor.

PR representatives have it harder than ever to control how the public sees their clients. Cyrus decided to take her PR into her own hands and seems to urge others to do the same. On an appearance on "The Tonight Show," Cyrus sent some advice to Bieber. She said, "You've got a lot of money. Pay people to make sure you don't get into trouble ... I don't see a Miley mug shot yet." The question is whether Miley has just been the result of early fame and fortune or if she actually is smarter than we think she is.

Maybe Miley should teach a course in the College of Business here at JMU because despite our highly-rated program, I doubt that any course will explain that side of public relations. Miley Cyrus' teaches "How to Twerk Your Way to the Top." It can count for a KIN class and COB. And you think parking in Champions Deck is a problem now ...

Taran Blanton-VanderWege is a sophomore English major. Contact Taran at blantotr@dukes.jmu.edu.

ADDISON SNIDLE |

contributing columnist

Opinions count for concerts

Students must take UPB's artists survey

"There's a little bit of devil in those angel eyes" Love and Theft sang last night while strumming on the guitar in their country accents. About 30 percent of JMU would have really enjoyed that concert.

But what about the other 70 percent of students here? They sat on their couches — or tiny dorm room beds — and complained about how Radford got ASAP Rocky last year.

I also was upset when I heard the news that our Wilson concert of the year was going to be some country band.

I remember taking time out of my free day to answer every single question in the survey that the University Program Board sent us every year. And then I realized that people at this school don't vote.

We get crap artists every year because only a small number of people actually pay attention to their emails. I am one of the people who reads the emails and I am always surprised at the amount of events UPB holds on campus.

UPB states that we do not tend to get notable artists because larger acts would mean higher ticket prices.

Kids at college hate paying much for anything, take it from me. It is so difficult to get my friends to do fun things because everything costs money that we just don't have. However, I believe if we have prominent artists every year, more people would attend concerts regardless.

The way UPB picks the artists, as they have stated on their website, is based on "campus-wide student surveys, trends in the music industry and availability of artist and venue."

The UPB Center Stage Committee looks at the survey responses and takes into account the cost and availability of the artists with the most votes. From this year's survey that was sent on Jan. 7, 5,268 students began the survey and only 2,677 students actually completed the survey. JMU has nearly 20,000 students at this school. Really, about 13,000 people didn't vote?

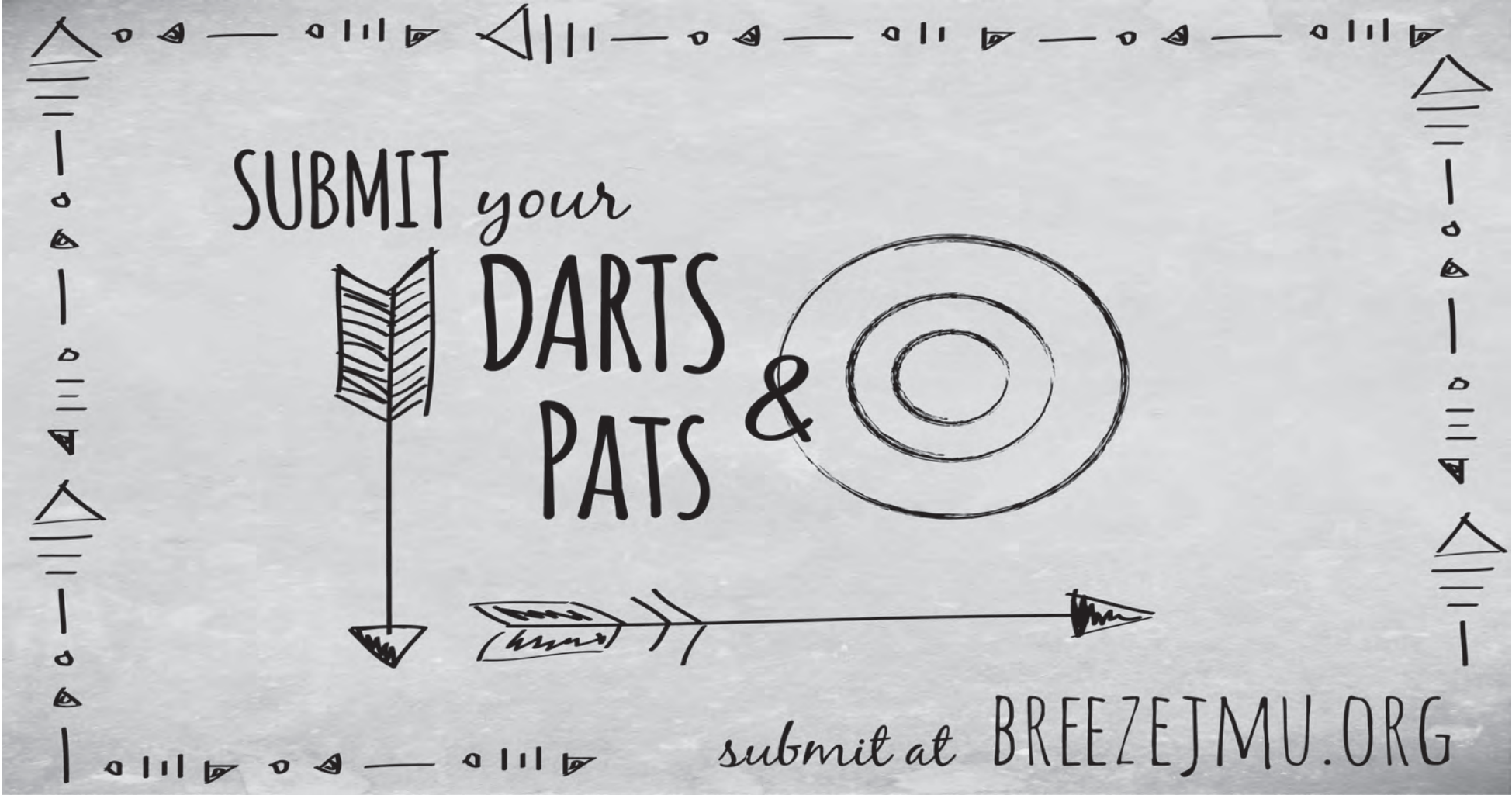
Come on, guys. Last year we got Macklemore & Ryan Lewis. Although I am not a fan, I heard it was a great concert. I like rock. I'd love to see a good rock concert. But I know a big majority of people — especially at this school — enjoy the big named artists, hip-hop, pop and rap. It's the kind of music that gets people on their feet.

I would love anything really. In the survey, people are required to check a band for each category of genres, but at the end of the survey, a student could add a note. They can preference a band they want.

We have yet to hear what artist we got for the big spring concert located in the Convocation Center. Madipalooza artists are also TBA.

Unfortunately the voting has already happened. Perhaps country will prevail again? However, if more people vote next year, who knows, maybe one day we can get ASAP Rocky. Actually I would really appreciate it.

Addison Snidle is a junior media arts and design and English double major. Contact Addison at snidleab@dukes.jmu.edu.



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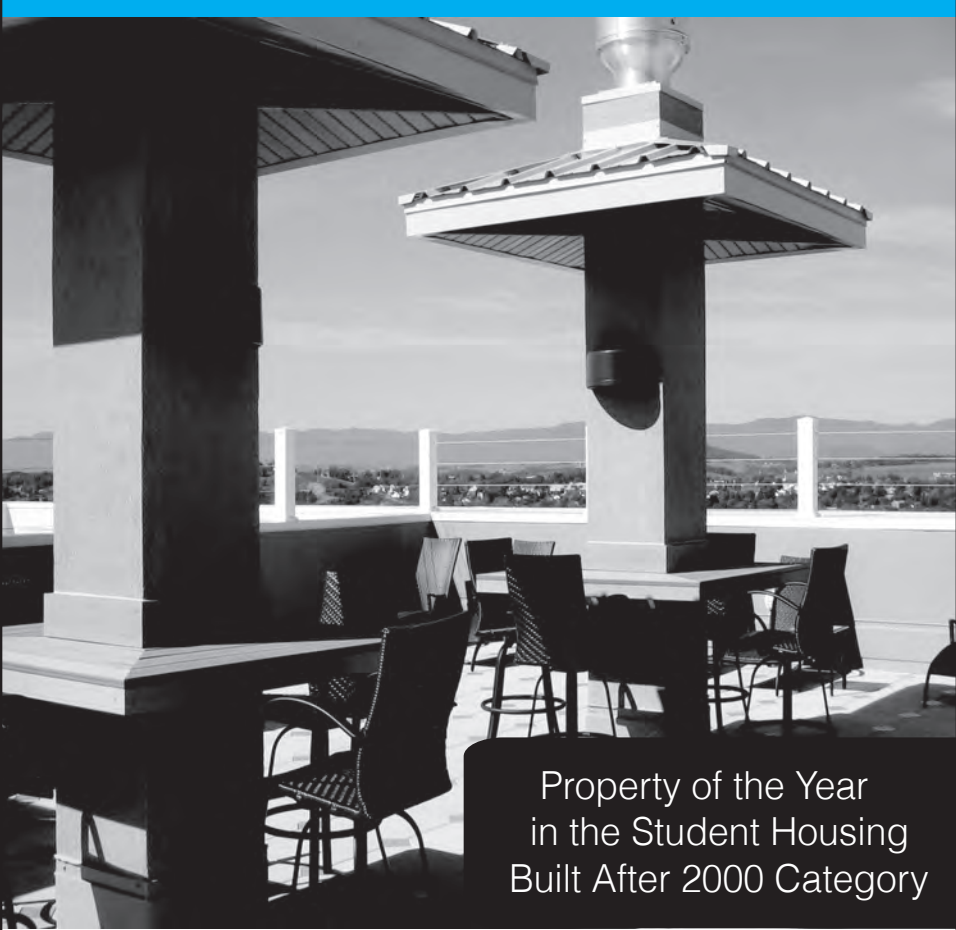
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Opening the opera doors

Music students create a montage of scenes from famous operas for students to perform



COURTESY OF DON RIERSON

Students perform in Gaetano Donizetti's "The Elixir of Love" in November of 2012. Timothy Cole (center), a former applied music instructor at JMU, played the lead role of Adina.

By SYDNEY FENDER
contributing writer

Opera isn't as intimidating as you think it is. For both opera enthusiasts and those who don't know much about opera, students from JMU's Opera Theater will be performing in the Opera Spotlight at 8 p.m. in the Forbes Center for Performing Arts tonight and Friday night. They will be performing classic scenes from famous composers such as Mozart and Gioachino Rossini.

This semester's Spotlight theme is literature-based opera, featuring scenes from "The Marriage of Figaro," "Romeo and Juliet," "Così fan Tutte," "Rigoletto," "Hamlet," "Tosca," "La Bohème," "Duetto Buffo di Due Gatti," "Street Scene," "Student Prince," "H. M. S. Pinafore" and "Sir Joseph's Entrance."

The Spotlight is an event focused on experience and notoriety for the singers, but also introduces JMU's opera-illiterate students to the world of opera for just five dollars and an hour of their time.

Students unfamiliar with opera get a quick and condensed introduction to a few famous operas, and the famous literature references will make the experience more relatable. The performance will give the audience the opportunity to expand their repertoire and become familiar with these famous scenes.

"What we want to do here is try to break down the barriers for opera because a lot of people are afraid of it — they hear that word and they think of large women screaming at each other in tongues," Don Rierson, director of opera and musical theatre at JMU, said. "Part of what the concert is supposed to do is make opera accessible."

The Opera Spotlight, being just select songs from famous operas instead of the entire

program, gives the students the chance to perform from large operas that are usually too elaborate to do on a college level.

"It helps build our resumes and allows us to gain experience in different operas, and if we have an audition we have experience in these major roles already," Catherine Kelly, a graduate student in JMU's opera program, said.

Kelly will be performing the roles of Susanna, Juliet and a cat. Next year she is moving to Germany to study voice and hopefully perform in concerts.

This year's Spotlight is a little different than previous years due to the opera program's growth, allowing the department to expand the performance's range; many are more aware of the Spotlight now.

The Spotlight features a plethora of duets and solos, making it more emotionally intriguing.

"There is more of a focus on the inner emotion of the character instead of the interaction of characters," opera graduate student Andrew Struhar said. "Bigger stuff is being done, bigger operas and composers haven't been done as much, as the graduate program expands they've been able to expand the scenes they can do."

Struhar is finishing the graduate program this semester and will be moving to Philadelphia to study and continue to audition; he and Kelly both plan on eventually getting their doctorates in opera and teaching at the university level.

The Spotlight is a economical way for students to spend a night at the opera, costing students only five dollars and an hour of their time.

"We want to tell the stories of the operas and also give the public a chance to see how talented our singers are," Rierson said.

CONTACT Sydney Fender at fendersn@dukes.jmu.edu.

food review

A 'Mash'up of culture

Mashita redefines food trucks and Korean cuisine in Harrisonburg



JAMES CHUNG / THE BREEZE



JAMES CHUNG / THE BREEZE

LEFT Mashita's food truck operates out of a renovated '90s Chevrolet step van. **RIGHT** Ssam, which means 'wrapped' in Korean, comes with a choice of meat accompanied by bibb lettuce to make a lettuce wrap.

By CAMERON YOUNG
contributing writer

Hanging out in a 1999 Chevrolet step van retrofitted with kitchen equipment serving Korean delicacies: this is a lifestyle for Mikey Reisenberg.

Sitting in a gravel parking lot off of E. Market Street, Mashita is a Korean-inspired food truck serving up authentic Korean dishes within a college student's budget. The truck is owned by Reisenberg, who was adopted at 4 months from Seoul, South Korea by an American family and was raised in Harrisonburg. He graduated from JMU in 2009 with a degree in history.

It was Harrisonburg's lack of Korean-influenced food that sparked the idea for Mashita.

Reisenberg describes the food scene in Harrisonburg as leaning heavily toward Korean cuisines and I completely agree. While we all do enjoy a proper taco, I yearn for flavors of my own heritage. There are a few, and I hate using this term but it applies here, "authentic" Asian restaurants. Yes we do have the Oriental Cafe, Taste of Thai and Beyond, but we lacked a strong Korean or Vietnamese restaurant, until now. An aside: I am still waiting for the day that a proper pho noodle shop opens here.

The menu is simple: choose one of two

combo options, either two ho-pangs or two ssams.

What exactly are ho-pangs and ssams? Ho-pangs are steamed buns. They have a nice fullness to the bite without being overly doughy. Substantial but light, a pleasing balance — think of these as Korean soft tacos. Ssams are lettuce wraps: bibb lettuce with meat and a sauce inside.

While the portions of either combo appear small, I can assure you that it is filling. A combo of two ho-pang and a side will run you eight dollars while a combo of four ssam and a side will be six dollars. The sides or banchan include steamed rice, kimchi and a bean sprout salad. The rice would work well in a ssam but it would be far too much starch added to a bun. The kimchi or the bean sprouts will play well in either a ssam or ho-pang.

Both dishes offer the same fillings of braised chicken or pork and beef bulgogi. There are also vegetarian options such as mushrooms or tofu but the beef was by far the best protein out of the choices. It was flavorful but not too overly sweet, a common sin of "fusion" and ethnically inspired dishes. With the seasonings of the beef, I don't believe the sauces that were included were completely necessary nor contributed much of anything. I would have loved a spicier option which I have come to associate and love about Korean

cuisines, as with most ethnic foods.

There was some kick from the kimchi which brightened up the meal. No Korean meal is complete without this ubiquitous condiment. Mashita quick pickles their kimchi which means that it won't have the same depth of flavor that kimchi develops if it is allowed to ferment. While it lacks complexity, it is still absolutely necessary to order.

Dessert was unfortunately forgettable. Asian desserts are typically not sweet but rather savory. Mashita chose to forgo that notion and drown the buns used in the ho-pang with an overly sugary icing. It conjured up memories of late night exhaustion in an airport where your only choice is Cinnabon so you wouldn't fall asleep and miss your connection.

Sadly this was the note I ended my meal on, which is a real pity because overall it was an impressive meal from Mashita.

"This really is for anyone that is interested in something different," Reisenberg said, and I agree.

For those looking to slowly expand their palate, Mashita is a good first step into the bounty of dishes from various cultures.

Cameron Young is a junior international business major. Contact Cameron at youngcy@dukes.jmu.edu.



JAMES CHUNG / THE BREEZE

Mashita also offers vegetarian versions of its ssam and ho-pang with either roasted shitake mushrooms or marinated extra-firm tofu.

Get: the Ho-Pang with beef bulgogi, spicy gochujang with a side of kimch – \$8

Skip: dessert – \$2

Thurs

6

Nothin' Fancy with The West Wind Bluegrass Band, live @ Court Square Theater, tickets \$15 in advance and \$18 at the door, 8 p.m.

Yo Mama's Big Fat Booty Band, live @ Clementine Cafe, tickets \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door 9 p.m.

Salsa Night @ the Artful Dodger, 9 p.m.

Fri

7

Bob Marley's birthday party with Iron Lion and Murphy's Kids live @ Clementine Cafe, tickets \$10, 9 p.m.

First Fridays Downtown, all day, check valleyarts.org for a full listing of art exhibits to tour.

Flashback Fridays with DJ V @ the Artful Dodger, 10 p.m., ages 21+

Sat

8

"Culture by Design The World of the Kanga: Stories of an East African Cloth" Exhibit, Spitzer Art Center, 486 W. Market St., 10 a.m.

Book for the 'Burg @ Your Library, discussion of the book "Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, a Man Who Would Cure the World," by Tracy Kidder, Massanutten Regional Library, 1 p.m.

Shenandoah Alley live @ Clementine Cafe, 9:30 p.m.

Sun

9

Horse-drawn carriage rides @ Edith J. Carrier Arboretum, 2-5 p.m.

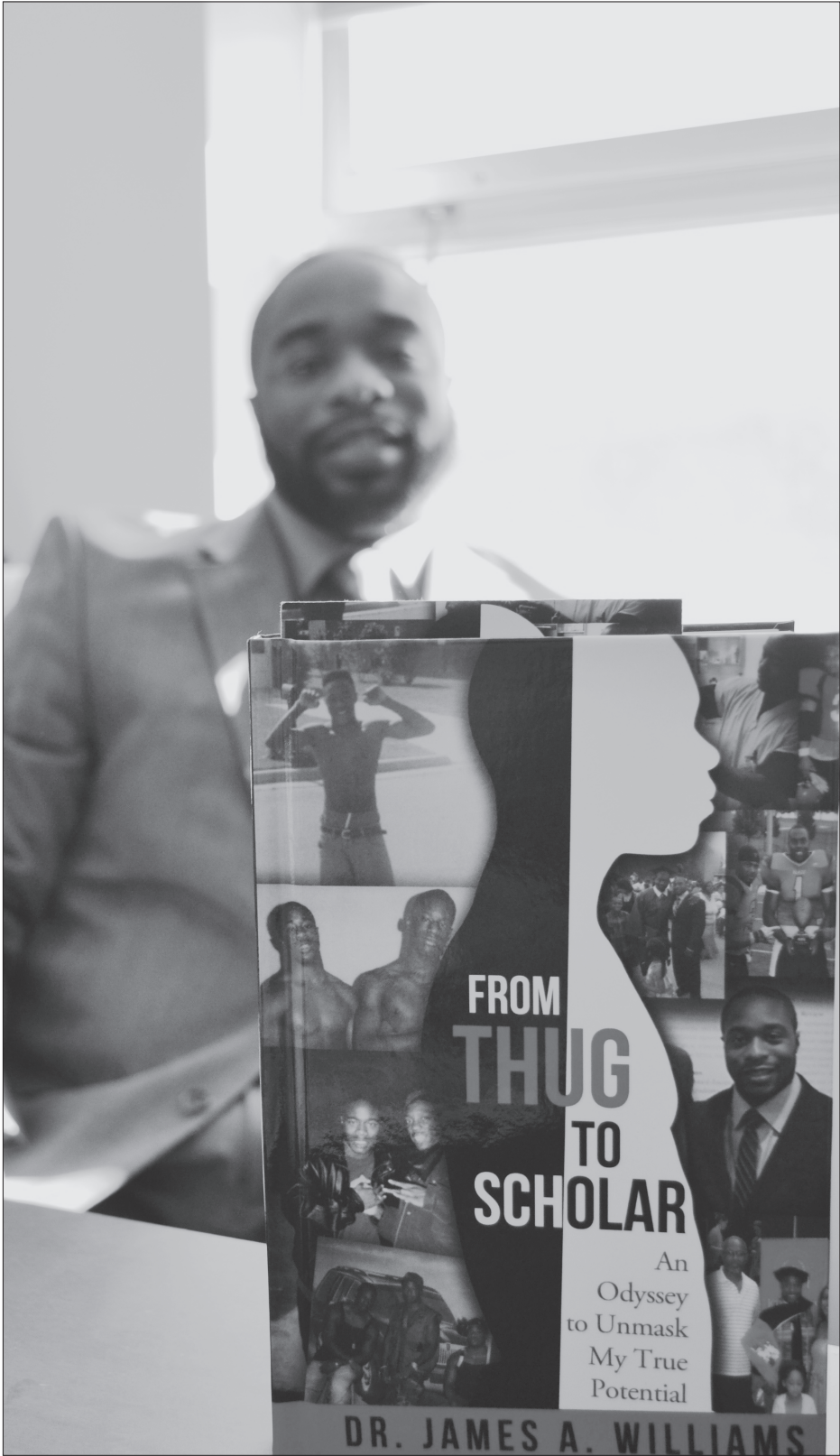
"A Place At The Table," a documentary on hunger in America, playing @ Bridgewater College, 3 p.m.

The Freelance Whales, live @ Lehman Auditorium, EMU, tickets \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door, 9 p.m.

Something missing? Email us at breezearts@gmail.com.

THUG

| 'He no longer had any idea who this person was ...'



HOLLY WARFIELD / THE BREEZE

James Williams received his bachelor's from Park University, his master's from Central Michigan, his doctorate from the University of Pheonix and his Ph.D. from Iowa State University.

from front

The family moved to Wilson, N.C. Coming from the ethnically mixed neighborhood in Mass., he was shocked by the segregation in N.C. A cousin told him, "You were up there with the white boys. Down here black people is tough and you gotta fight." In eighth grade, Williams started selling crack. One night he was selling to a guy who had walked up with his two kids. The kids were terrified, knowing their father was doing something wrong. Suddenly a 13-year-old boy was telling a grown man, "Get your kids outta here." After dropping off his kids somewhere, the man dashed back to Williams "running like a kid on Christmas Day."

"It made me be able to empathize and really relate to people. Everybody has shortcomings."


James Williams
professor of hospitality management

Williams realized the power of the drug by watching what it was doing to other people and watching his family be torn apart by crack. He never sold crack again. At 16, he ran away from home because he was too prideful to follow his parents' rules and during this time he fathered a child. He plucked roaches out of the cereal box to have food to eat. By the time he graduated from high school, he had two kids and a failing GPA. East Carolina University and West Virginia University were looking at him for an athletic scholarship. He decided to go to Methodist College, a little Division III school his parents were willing to pay for. He was red-shirted, which upset him, and he started cutting class. He found himself hanging out with

associates of the notorious street gang, the Bloods and started carrying a .22 caliber pistol. One night they went to Durham for a North Carolina A&T v. North Carolina Central basketball game. At a party after the game, while they were sitting in the truck, a guy came running toward them, and his friends started to shout, "JAMES, SHOOT, SHOOT, SHOOT!" Raw fear provided enough hesitation for his friend to recognize the man as a comrade and the incident came to a screeching halt. He no longer had any idea who this person was who almost shot another man. He joined the Air Force to clean up his act. He met his future wife, Latoya in 1999 at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas during basic training. "When I met James, he was very sweet, but he was also very unsure of himself," Latoya said. She remembers his tough exterior and attributes it to his struggle to become his own person. He went back to college with the goal of learning as much as he possibly could. It didn't matter what grades he got.

Today, he has a Bachelor of Arts in management and computer information systems from Park University, a master's degree in administration from Central Michigan University, his doctorate in management and organizational leadership from the University of Phoenix, and a Ph.D. in hospitality management from Iowa State. He achieved all of this was all while playing professional indoor football with the Raleigh Rebels. Now a father of four, he wishes all the rough stuff hadn't happened, but it helps keep him "real." "It made me be able to empathize and really relate to people. Everybody has shortcomings," Williams said. He preaches to his students that to be a good leader and know what true leadership is, they must first lead their own lives. The world is unfair, but that is no excuse. Williams is a firm advocate of the idea that "we have the answers to getting the most out of our lives."

CONTACT Megan O'Brien at obrienmp@dukes.jmu.edu.



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10. "DIANA" - PRISCILLA AHN

BLAIR ROSEN / THE BREEZE

STEPHEN PROFFITT

estimated proffitt

There's more fish in the sea

Other leagues deserve the spotlight while football is on hiatus

This Sunday at 9:55 p.m., many fans were left scratching their head. The Super Bowl was over, officially marking seasonal depression for most surface level sports fans. Football season is completed.

The Seahawks made the game less than interesting, clinching the first 35-point Super Bowl win since 1993.

"No one wants to see a blow-out," former JMU offensive guard and current Arizona Cardinal Earl Watford said. "The outcome of the game was very unexpected."

You're telling me. With all the yearly hype, I was forced to believe this would "be the greatest Super Bowl in history." Of course, that's what they all say — every year.

It could be argued that Seattle's defense as a unit should've been awarded MVP honors, maybe even the 12th man.

When the fireworks and the dust settle, Seattle's Pike Place Market will again toss and sell fish by the pound. Peyton Manning will ponder what happened. Maybe he'll retire, maybe he'll return, maybe he'll drown his sorrows in Papa Johns and a legalized gram of marijuana.

There is one thing we do know. It's the offseason for football, but it doesn't have to be for fans.

According to the recently released Harris Poll, the NFL was voted America's favorite sport for the 30th straight year. It won 35 percent of the vote. The survey began in 1985, so football has never lost.

For perspective, the only sports that are currently in session are the NBA, NHL and college hoops and they won six, five and three percent of the vote in the Harris Poll, respectively.

Made by the numbers, the biggest sports season is over. Bye-bye to concussions and end zone dances.

What are fans left to do? Hibernation is surely frowned upon in today's society.

"Yes, football is the greatest sport ever so I guess I can understand that people say that," Watford said via email. "I know that I will be watching all the baseball, Go Phils!! And NASCAR season is here. There is also the Olympics starting this weekend."

So according to an NFL player, whose life is football, there are plenty of options for fans, even some surprising choices too. Daytona here we come!

Let's allocate football talk to the experts and get it out of the mainstream sports media until August.

Adam Schefter, Ron Jaworski, John Clayton and Chris Mortensen, you're dismissed for vacation. Please don't grace my television anytime soon.

"For those who need their NFL fix, NFL Network is on 24/7," Watford said.

Belly up, fans, that TV sports package is quite pricey.

Sensible enough not to buy in? Good. There are other storylines to follow in the offseason.

Like can the Trail Blazers finally complete a Cinderella season and make it beyond the first round of the NBA playoffs since 2000? Or who gets dished at the NHL trade deadline? And are the Wichita State Shockers for real? They were last year.

These are some obscure story lines happening in the neglected world of sports taking place between now and May (when the NBA playoffs ignite). Everything in between is irrelevant to most fans.

The lone exception is March Madness, which has become glorified gambling filled with aimless predictions. I love President Obama (did I just reveal something?), but I could care less who he has in the Final Four.

see NFL, page B5

SOFTBALL

Getting back in gear

JMU softball set to begin season with five games this weekend



JAMES CHUNG / THE BREEZE

Last season, JMU finished 42-17 overall and 18-3 in the CAA. The Dukes are picked to finish second in the CAA this season, behind Hofstra University.

By RICHARD BOZEK
contributing writer

As the JMU softball team steps up to the plate for the start of the season, it looks to continue dominating the diamond and building off the success of its 2012-13 campaign.

Last season was an impressive one for the Dukes. Under the direction of newly-acquainted head coach Mickey Dean, the Dukes finished the season with a record of 42-17 and a second-place finish in the Colonial Athletic Association standings. The team also received its first NCAA tournament at-large bid and fought its way to its first NCAA tournament win in program history, beating Longwood University.

"Last year we had extremely good senior leadership which contributed to our success," Dean said. "We expect to have the same leadership from this year's seniors, juniors and sophomores with game experience."

Still, the Dukes bring to the field a young team with 10 freshmen taking a spot on the roster. But built around a nucleus of upperclassmen and experienced underclassmen, the team has the elements for another successful season. Especially considering returners and All-CAA performers such as the 2013 CAA Rookie of the Year in sophomore pitcher Jailynd Ford as well as senior

infielder Caitlin Sandy and junior pitcher Heather Kiefer.

Upperclassmen such as Sandy are aware of the leadership role that comes with being an experienced member of the team.

"As a senior I am trying to lead by example both on and off the field," Sandy said.

Regardless, last season was last season, and there's still room for improvement.

"This past offseason we focused on the little things because they all add up in the end. Even things as little as making sure your bats and cleats are clean make all the difference," Ford said. "We learned to work as a team and trust each other."

As early as it is, Dean has already seen improvement in the team from last year.

"We want to improve in all areas," Dean said. "We are better in the circle this year and have more experience. Defensively, we have more quickness, speed and arm strength."

This weekend, the Dukes will head down to Athens, Ga. for their first games of the season against some tough opponents. They face the University of North Texas and Winthrop University twice and nationally ranked University of Georgia twice over the span of three days. The team looks to take advantage of this opportunity to start the season on a strong note.

"We have been practicing for a while

but now it's time to see who can perform in the game," Dean said about this weekend. "We need to figure ourselves out and play aggressive."

After other various invitationals in Florida and Hawaii, the Dukes will begin conference play in the latter half of March when they face Hofstra University. In the CAA preseason coaches poll, the Dukes were picked to finish second in the conference behind Hofstra.

The team will work to meet and exceed these expectations, and have the right mental attitude to do so.

"Heading into the season we need to shoot big and have a champion's mentality," Ford said. "We need to continuously work hard and trust that all the hard work will pay off." Looking ahead towards conference play, Dean hopes that they will have all the wrinkles worked out by the time March 22 rolls around. In a season with dozens of games, it can be easy to look ahead into the future. Coach Dean wants the team to focus on each day as it comes.

"Each game needs to be treated like the biggest game of our life," Dean said. "We can only control the present, we cannot control the future. We just need to go out there and play each day."

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bozekrj@dukes.jmu.edu.

MEN'S BASKETBALL (8-15)

Welcomed assistance

Starting point guard Ron Curry transforms into a leader



LAUREN GORDON / THE BREEZE

By STEPHEN PROFFITT
The Breeze

Brandon Jennings isn't exactly a household name when it comes to NBA point guards. Sophomore Ron Curry may fall in the same boat when it comes to Colonial Athletic Association point guards, but his attraction to this talented but subtle star could be a catalyst to league-wide stardom later in his career.

"I like his whole game," Curry said of Jennings. "If you ever watch him play, he's very aggressive. He got the balance in his game."

It's this formula that Curry works on every single day in practice and in film. Pass or shoot? Finish or kick out?

"I like to kick it out," Curry said. "I drive for other people. That's not always good, but it's kind of like I feel I should do that as a point guard."

To be a player in the game, you have to be a student of the game.

"I just watch [guards] as a whole," Curry said. "There's a lot of different type



MATT SCHMACHTENBERG / THE BREEZE

Sophomore guard Ron Curry is averaging 34.7 minutes per game, 11.4 points per game and 3.2 assists per game so far this season. That's up from the 27.4 minutes per game, 5.7 points per game and 1.8 assists per game he averaged last season.

of point guards. It's not like one specific type. You got guys like [Rajon] Rondo [who] does everything. A guy like [Russell] Westbrook can score the ball. He's a scoring point guard."

While Rondo wins Curry's vote for flashiness, Jennings gets his overall vote because of balance. In his fifth year in the NBA, Jennings is averaging 17.2 points per game while dishing out eight assists per game in his first year with the Detroit Pistons. He spent his first four with the Milwaukee Bucks, where he averaged fewer than five assists per game just once in 2010-2011 (4.8). That's balance, and Curry wants it.

In his second year at JMU, and his first year at the helm as starting point guard, Curry is averaging 11.3 points per game and 3.2 assists per game. These are consistent numbers, complemented with the fact that Curry has set single-game career highs in points (23) and assists (nine) this season.

"I got to try and bring it every day," Curry said.

After two assists Tuesday night in a loss at Towson University, Curry has 71 on the season in 22 games. That ranks him fifth in the CAA behind names like Delaware's Jarvis Threatt and Drexel's Frantz Massenat — the household names of the CAA.


Curry's career-high nine assists on Sunday vs. the College of William & Mary was not an anomaly. It's a sign of improvement. Progress has been made in Curry's game, but there's always room for more, according to head coach Matt Brady.

"I still think there's a significant jump Ron can make in the next year," Brady said. "If you're going to build a point guard, 6'3", 185-pounds ... athletic, fast, can jump; he's the right athlete."

see CURRY, page B5

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COMMENTARY

Keep your head on a swivel

Wrapping up a crazy NFL season from the Skins to the Seahawks

BY DREW CRANE
The Breeze

With the crowning of the Seattle Seahawks as the 2014 Super Bowl champions comes arguably the worst time of every year: the NFL offseason. No more Sundays filled with beer and wings. No more Monday night games to help you cope with the start of a new week.

Winter is coming.

But luckily this was another exciting season in the National Football League and it's time to look back and reminisce about all that happened. Every NFL season sets the bar just a bit higher. Some teams meet and surpass the expectations set for them; others fall short.

As far as passing the bar goes, you have to look first to the two teams who competed in the Super Bowl: the Seattle Seahawks and Denver Broncos. Both teams came into the year being heavily favored to get their hands on the Lombardi trophy, but on Sunday, the Seahawks' stifling defense, led by a certain Legion of Boom, along with an explosive offense fueled by a skittle-eating beast, brought the Lombardi Trophy to the Emerald City for the first time.

On the losers' side, there lies a Denver Broncos team guided by its future Hall of Fame quarterback. Peyton Manning nearly rewrote the entire record book with the season he had. It's hard to give love to the guy after his lackluster performance Sunday night, but he threw for the most passing touchdowns with 55, most passing yards with 5,477, most four-touchdown passing games with nine, most two-touchdown passing games with 15, most 90+ passer rating games with 15 and, oh yeah, he was just crowned the league MVP.

So now that the two obvious teams are out of the way, let's look at some of the other teams that played up to snuff.

The Patriots made it to the AFC championship game for the eighth time in the last 12 years, but in typical New England fashion, didn't come away with the Lombardi Trophy; they haven't won the Super Bowl since 2004.

In that same division, the circus that is the New York Jets rolled on with another lackluster year and another QB who the fans hate — not to mention the Rex Ryan sound bites we've all grown accustomed to (although he does look a little healthier now). I don't think anybody had them winning it all so they met that expectation, but they did have a shot at making the playoffs, which probably surpassed some.

Staying in the AFC, the Kansas City Chiefs went from being 2-14 in 2012 to going 11-5 and clinching a wild-card spot. With an offense powered by running back Jaamal Charles and a defense that forced 43 turnovers, they took advantage of the easy schedule that was handed to them after being the league's worst team in 2012.

The Cincinnati Bengals made their way into the postseason by going 11-5, only to have Andy Dalton single-handedly eliminate them from the playoffs again. I think it's safe to say we all expected that one.

Andrew Luck and the Indianapolis Colts made it to the playoffs for the second time in a row. At this point, I don't think anybody is expecting them to go all the way just yet, although Luck has gotten them close.

In the NFC, the San Francisco 49ers and New Orleans Saints lived up to their billings of being playoff contenders, but obviously both fell short once they got there.

The Philadelphia Eagles made a good bit of noise by surprisingly making into the playoffs with first-year coach Chip Kelly and his high-tempo offense that included the NFC's offensive MVP Lesean McCoy and big-armed QB Nick Foles.

As for the teams that didn't live up to their expectations, I might as well start with the hometown favorites, the Washington Redskins. After reaching the playoffs in his rookie season, RGIII and the rest of the team sputtered to a 3-13 record, leading about a third of JMU students to cry themselves to sleep every Sunday night. I'm gonna give it about halfway through next season before the "We want Kirk Cousins" chants start.



COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

Seattle Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson after winning Super Bowl XLVIII 43-8 over the Broncos.

But to Skins fans' delight, the New York Giants and Dallas Cowboys both missed out on the playoffs as well. Eli Manning and the Giants went 7-8; Tony Romo and the Dallas Cowboys went 8-8 for the third year in a row. Mediocrity at it's finest.

The Baltimore Ravens continued the trend of the reigning Super Bowl champions failing to win a playoff game the year after winning the Super Bowl. This is the first time in John Harbaugh's six years that he and Joe Flacco didn't reach the playoffs. The Ravens' front office made a slew of changes in an attempt to reverse this trend, but they couldn't replace what they lost in Ray Lewis, Ed Reed and Anquan Boldin.

But luckily for Ravens fans, the Pittsburgh Steelers missed out on the playoffs for the second year in a row despite Ben Roethlisberger's impressive season. The Steelers put themselves in contention after recovering from an 0-4 start, but ultimately fell short thanks a botched field goal attempt by the Kansas City Chiefs' kicker Ryan

Succop. It's probably safe to assume that Succop is currently the most hated man in Pittsburgh — behind Terrell Suggs, of course. But at least none of us have to see those yellow towels getting waved around for another couple of months.

Perhaps the biggest disappointment was the Houston Texans. After coming off a 12-4 season in 2012, the Texans tumbled to a league-worst 2-14 record and also saw their head coach get axed after 12 games.

All in all, it was an exciting and entertaining year for America's most popular league, and although it's over, there's still the NFL draft to look forward to, that is of course unless you're an Oakland Raiders fan (maybe they'll take another kicker in the first round). But no matter who you cheer for we're all in this together and it's time to bundle up and brave the storm that is the NFL offseason.

CONTACT Drew Crane at craneat@dukes.jmu.edu.

FOOTBALL | No starters set

from front

The prospects had to possess the balanced academic and athletic qualities that Withers and his staff believe is necessary to succeed in the future. Nine of the recruits have a 3.0 or better GPA.

"We wanted to make sure that we get the best fit for the JMU nation, for this university," Withers said. "As we went out on the recruiting trail, we wanted to make sure that we bring in young men that fit the culture of this school, the academic integrity of this school. But not only that, that can help us win games and win championships."

As far as pure athletic ability goes, Withers said no attention was paid to the popular star ratings that rank recruits on overall ability from one to five stars. This class has a few two-star recruits, as determined by the website Rivals.

"I think stars get coaches fired. You go find good football players, no matter what the stars are, you go find good football players," Withers said. "I don't know who on our signing class has stars, have no idea. Don't really care."

The two players from this class that are already on campus, Lee and Nittolo, are acclimating well to JMU according to Withers. They figure to add an obvious kick to the quarterback competition.

"Our objective is to have competition at every spot on our football team ... We want to make sure we have competition," Withers said. "Competition, obviously, helps each individual in that competition play better and be better. That means on the field, off the field, because

everything's in play."

Now that the staff is off the recruiting trail and back in the offices, their main priority shifts to getting to know the current players. But from a purely football perspective, Withers said there's no starters in place yet at any position.

"I don't know this team, I can't tell you who's starting at left guard," he said. "All I know right now is we're competing right now in the off-season to find out who our football players are going to be."

In addition, Withers is leaving the door open to the possibility of bringing in some other players over the next few months if need be.

"We're always going to manipulate this roster. If something happens and we're able to do that, then we'll always look at it. I think at this level it affords you the opportunity to do that."

As far as the incoming freshmen Withers said he has no plans on redshirting any of them this season.

"We want to be able to sign guys that can come in here and play," Withers said. "If they need to redshirt, we probably don't need to bring them in here."

Though it's still very early, the 2014 recruiting class could become a window to see what kind of program JMU will be under Withers.

"It's a class that'll be the structure of what we build here at James Madison," Withers said. "So we're excited about the 14 young men that are a part of this class."

CONTACT Wayne Epps Jr. at breezesports@gmail.com.

CURRY | 'Could be best in league'



MATT SCHMACHTENBERG / THE BREEZE

Sophomore guard Ron Curry has started each of the 22 games he's played in this season.

from B3

But Curry trained under a name the CAA is familiar with, Devon Moore, who graduated last season. Despite Moore's constant battles with injuries, he was a popular face in CAA basketball for some time.

Learning from success tends to breed more success. Moore finished his career with 502 assists, the most in JMU history.

"That was like my big brother," Curry said. "Like off the court I spent a lot of time with him."

Despite averaging 27.4 minutes per game freshman year, Curry had a role to fill. According to him, he didn't have to do much to help the team succeed. This year is a sharp contrast compared to last season.

"This year is totally different," Curry said. "I got to be the leader of the team and run the team the best I can."

Essentially assuming the team captain role as a sophomore can be daunting. In his first press conference as a freshman, Curry looked intimidated by the microphone. While still shy, he has morphed into a leader on the team. It's his goal to become a more vocal leader every day.

"I definitely need to become more vocal," Curry said. "It's just not my personality. I'm just a laid-back guy. The team needs me to be more vocal."

That was the one caveat to Moore. He was an emotional player, but he kept it in check. Rarely did he yell on the court. Moore made it work somehow, helping lead the Dukes to their first trip to the NCAA tournament since 1993.

JMU hasn't seen a vocal point guard since Anthony "Humpty" Hitchens three seasons prior. Hitchens, at 5'9", was an imposing presence on the floor. He would physically buck at opposing point guards as they got to half court. He yelled, he grunted, he led the team by being vocal. He resembled a bulldog protecting his house while on defense.

Curry may fit somewhere in between his two predecessors, between the reserved (Moore) and the street ball-brash (Hitchens).

"He shows great leadership on and off the court," sophomore guard Charles Cooke said. "That's who we follow, we follow after Ron. I think he could be a little more vocal, talk a little more."

Through 56 college games in his career, Curry is smoothly adjusting to life as one of 351 starting point guards in Division I.

"I think he's getting comfortable being a college-level point guard," Brady said. "Most of the time, sophomores don't have that role."

According to Brady, Curry still struggles giving it his all in practice, but he's seen improvements.

"Ron Curry has certainly gotten better," Brady said Monday. "It's directly related to the energy he's put in practice."

While there isn't a perfect correlation between Curry's assists and JMU wins, there is some. When Curry finishes with fewer than his average of three assists per contest, the Dukes are 1-7.

According to ESPN statistics, JMU ranks 348 in the nation in assists per game with nine. Curry will continue to improve that number throughout the remainder of this season and into the future.

"You're supposed to be the most unselfish player on the court," Curry said. "That's what I pride myself on."

Cooke wants the team to move better without the ball. He says it'll help Curry find the open guy, alleviating him of some pressure that a point guard faces. They have to be the eyes and ears on the court.

You won't find Curry getting caught up in the lights of a Chris Paul-type point guard. He'll be busy studying Jennings' game and wondering who will receive the next alley-oop pass he delicately lobs toward the rim inside the Convocation Center.

"I think Ron can definitely be the best point guard in the league," Cooke said.

Until then, it's all about balance.

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NFL | Several other options now

from B3

Even MLB's Opening Day — which is equivalent to Christmas in my mind — has become less than spectacular in the eyes of sports fans. Baseball gained 23 percent of the Harris Poll vote in 1985. So over 30 years, our beloved pastime has gradually slipped to 14 percent since the original poll. It's a damn shame.

Let's spread the wealth. Pray for ESPN not to use this time to begin NFL hot-stove talk. Give other sports the attention they have earned and desire. Sal Paolantonio is probably already on-site at Jets training camp. Does he ever leave?

These other sports are losing popularity by the year. Is it because people don't like them as much as they once did or could it be attributed to ESPN and other major media conglomerates not giving them enough coverage?

Now we're back at the never ending debate of money, and who brings it in.

For Watford, it's easy to grasp the popularity of America's favorite game.

"Football is America's favorite sport to watch because you never know what's going to happen," Watford said. "Everyone wants their team to win it all and no matter what, fans stay devoted despite the outcome of decisions and season of their favorite team."

You know, I understand why people love football. One game a week: that's simple for a fan. I've said it before, but it takes effort and time for someone to follow a team that plays

more than 16 times a season. I'm not upset or jealous, but I do think fans could be more proactive in the wide spectrum of sports we are freely able to absorb in this country.

Baseball, basketball and NASCAR are not as physically demanding as football. I won't attempt to argue that. However, baseball plays 10 times as many games as football, basketball and hockey play about five times more. It's weekly brutality against daily stamina. I will argue that it all evens out in its own way.

Take the next week or so to become educated and involved in the sports so you can remain active during this depressive time of year. Can you tell me when pitchers and catchers report to spring training? If you can, I'll take you to dinner and we can discuss the back end of the Red Sox bullpen over an IPA.

Watford mentioned the Winter Olympics, which begin tomorrow. The hockey is going to be unreal. Consider this my World Cup.

No matter the path you choose now as a fan, don't say there's nothing good to delve into.

Just because your favorite NFL stars, including Watford, have now embarked for the offseason, that doesn't mean you should too.

This message is sponsored by the campaign for a better fan.

Stephen Proffitt is a junior media arts and design major. Contact Stephen at proffittjs@gmail.com.

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Here’s what to watch for at the Olympics:



Figure skaters practice before the start of competition at the Iceberg Skating Palace during the Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2014.

BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE/MCT

By **GARY D’AMATO**
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Fresh young faces, going places

Sarah Hendrickson, 19, ski jumping: The 95-pound dynamo already has won 22 World Cup medals and was gold medalist at the 2013 World Championships. She will be competing just five months after undergoing reconstructive knee surgery following a training crash.

Emery Lehman, 17, speedskating: The high school senior opened eyes when he caught and passed 2010 Olympian Jonathan Kuck to win the 10,000 meters at the U.S. Olympic trials. Lehman also qualified in the 5,000.

Mikaela Shiffrin, 18, Alpine skiing: The teen sensation is the reigning world champion and World Cup title-holder in slalom and also a medal contender in giant slalom. In five World Cup slalom races this season, Shiffrin has won three times and finished second once.

Maggie Voisin, 15, freestyle slopestyle: She’s the youngest member of a U.S. Olympic team, winter or summer, since 1996. Voisin earned a silver medal during her first-ever X Games last month and was named to Team USA as a discretionary pick in the new slopestyle event.

Gracie Gold, 18, figure skating: The 2014 U.S. champion has the perfect name for the top of the podium. NBC has been promoting her as the face of these Games, but can she deliver? New coach Frank Carroll helped Evan Lysacek win gold in 2010.

Mark them down for a medal

Ted Ligety: The 29-year-old Alpine skier is a favorite to win gold in giant slalom and “Ted Shred” should be a contender in several other disciplines as well. He had an outstanding 2013 season, winning three gold medals at the world championships.

Shani Davis: The long-track speedskater is the two-time defending Olympic champion in the 1,000 meters and has won silver twice in the 1,500. He’ll be the man to beat in those races and could add a medal in the team pursuit.

Shaun White: With Lindsey Vonn sidelined by a knee injury, the snowboarder is arguably the biggest name at the Winter Games. He’s the two-time defending Olympic gold medalist in halfpipe and has won 18 medals (13 gold) at the Winter X Games.

Heather Richardson: Barring a huge upset, she’ll be the first U.S. woman to win a medal in long-track speedskating since 2002. Richardson is the 2013 world sprint champion and won the 500, 1,000 and 1,500 at the U.S. Olympic trials.

Steve Holcomb: He can become the first American since Billy Fiske (1928, 1932) to win consecutive gold medals in four-man bobsled and the first American in 78 years to win two-man

gold. Holcomb is an outstanding pilot and has one of the best push crews in the world.

International athletes to watch

Evgeny Plushenko, figure skating, Russia: He was named to his fourth Olympic team after performing in front of Russian officials in a test skate. Plushenko won silver in 2002 and 2010 and gold in 2006. He is trying to become the second figure skater to win four Olympic singles medals.

Alex Ovechkin, hockey, Russia: The captain of the Washington Capitals and three-time Hart Memorial Trophy winner as the NHL’s most valuable player has the weight of a nation on his shoulders. Russia hasn’t medaled at the Olympics since winning bronze in 2002.

Sven Kramer, long-track speedskating, The Netherlands: The six-time world all-around champion goes into his third Winter Games unbeaten in the 5,000, 10,000 and team pursuit this season. He is determined to pull off the triple gold that eluded him in Vancouver when he followed erroneous instructions from his coach, incorrectly changed lanes and was disqualified in a 10K race he likely would have won.

Sidney Crosby, hockey, Canada: “Sid the Kid” authored one of the greatest moments in Canadian sports history when he scored the golden goal against the United States in overtime in 2010. To no one’s surprise, he was named captain of Team Canada for the Sochi Games.

Yuna Kim, figure skating, South Korea: The gold medalist in Vancouver, Kim will try to become the first repeat winner in ladies singles since East Germany’s Katarina Witt (1984 Sarajevo, 1988 Calgary). Kim also is a two-time world champion.

Gone but not forgotten

Lindsey Vonn: The 29-year-old skier announced one month ago that she would not compete in Sochi because of a knee injury. Vonn won two medals at the 2010 Vancouver Games, including the first gold by an American woman in the downhill.

Apolo Ohno: America’s most decorated Winter Olympian (eight medals) has retired, but television viewers will still see plenty of him — or at least hear plenty from him — in his role as a short-track speedskating analyst for NBC.

Evan Lysacek: The 2010 Olympic champion in men’s figure skating suffered a series of injuries, including a torn labrum in his left hip, during a comeback attempt. Rather than risk permanent injury by continuing to train, he pulled the plug in December.

Katherine Reutter: She won two medals in Vancouver, but chronic back problems forced the short-tracker to retire last year at age 24. She now coaches in the Academy of Skating Excellence at the Pettit National Ice Center.

Meng Wang: China’s short-track superstar collided with a teammate while training and broke her ankle just weeks before the opening ceremony. She was nearly unbeatable in the 500 meters; now that race will be wide open.

Team USA by the numbers

230: U.S. team members, including 105 women and 125 men. It is the largest athlete delegation for any nation in the history of the Winter Games.

106: Returning Olympians for the U.S., including one five-time Olympian, two four-time Olympians, 10 three-time Olympians and 23 two-time Olympians.

6: Olympic Games that Nordic combined skier Todd Lodwick has competed in, becoming the first American to do so.

9 and 10: Women’s bobsled push athletes Lolo Jones and Lauryn Williams become the ninth and 10th Americans to compete in both the Winter and Summer Games. Jones is a two-time Olympic hurdler and Williams is a three-time Olympic sprinter.

38: States represented. California claims the most Olympians with 20.

26: Average age of Team USA members. The oldest and youngest Olympians are curler Ann Swisshelm, 45, and freestyle skier Maggie Voisin, 15.

22: Members of Team USA who are parents; there are 19 fathers and three mothers.

6-5: Height of hockey forward Blake Wheeler, the tallest member of Team USA.

5-0: Height of figure skater Marissa Castelli and short-track speedskater Jessica Smith, the shortest team members.

7: Sets of siblings on the team, including twins Jocelyne and Monique Lamoureux in women’s hockey. Other siblings are cross-country skiers Sadie and Erik Bjornsen, curlers Erika and Craig Brown, Nordic combined athletes Bryan and Taylor Fletcher, snowboarders Arielle and Taylor Gold, hockey players Amanda and Phil Kessel and figure skaters Maia and Alex Shibutani.

Think
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Live

A photograph of three young women sitting outdoors on a bench. They are all smiling and looking towards the right. The woman in the foreground has long dark hair and is wearing sunglasses and a white top. The woman next to her has blonde hair in a bun and is wearing a green top. The woman on the right has dark hair and is wearing a colorful patterned top. They appear to be in a park or campus setting with trees in the background.

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